

In the Claims:

1-118. Canceled.

119. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having at least 80% ~~nucleic acid~~ sequence identity to:

- (a) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the~~ amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 387 shown in Figure 278 (SEQ ID NO: 387);
- (b) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the~~ amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 387 shown in Figure 278 (SEQ ID NO: 387), lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 387 shown in Figure 278 (SEQ ID NO: 387);
- (d) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in~~
Figure 278 (SEQ ID NO: 387), lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (e) ~~the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 277 (SEQ ID NO: 386);~~
- (f)(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of
the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 386 shown in Figure 277 (SEQ ID NO: 386); or
- (g)(e) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of
the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203132;

wherein said polypeptide stimulates cardiac hypertrophy.

120. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid of Claim 119 encoding a polypeptide having at least 85% ~~nucleic acid~~ sequence identity to:

- (a) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the~~ amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 387 shown in Figure 278 (SEQ ID NO: 387);
- (b) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the~~ amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 387 shown in Figure 278 (SEQ ID NO: 387), lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 387 shown in Figure 278 (SEQ ID NO: 387);
- (d) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in~~
Figure 278 (SEQ ID NO: 387), lacking its associated signal peptide;

- (e) ~~the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 277 (SEQ ID NO: 386);~~
(f)(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 386 shown in Figure 277 (SEQ ID NO: 386); or
(g)(e) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203132;
wherein said polypeptide stimulates cardiac hypertrophy.

121. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid of Claim 119 encoding a polypeptide having at least 90% ~~nucleic acid~~ sequence identity to:

- (a) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 387 shown in Figure 278 (SEQ ID NO: 387);~~
(b) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 387 shown in Figure 278 (SEQ ID NO: 387), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~
(c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 387 shown in Figure 278 (SEQ ID NO: 387);
(d) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 278 (SEQ ID NO: 387), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~
(e) ~~the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 277 (SEQ ID NO: 386);~~
(f)(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 386 shown in Figure 277 (SEQ ID NO: 386); or
(g)(e) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203132;
wherein said polypeptide stimulates cardiac hypertrophy.

122. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid of Claim 119 encoding a polypeptide having at least 95% ~~nucleic acid~~ sequence identity to:

- (a) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 387 shown in Figure 278 (SEQ ID NO: 387);~~
(b) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 387 shown in Figure 278 (SEQ ID NO: 387), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~

- (c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 387 shown in Figure 278 (SEQ ID NO: 387);
 - ~~(d) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 278 (SEQ ID NO: 387), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~
 - ~~(e) the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 277 (SEQ ID NO: 386);~~
 - ~~(f)(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 386 shown in Figure 277 (SEQ ID NO: 386); or~~
 - ~~(g)(e) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203132;~~
- wherein said polypeptide stimulates cardiac hypertrophy.

123. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid of Claim 119 encoding a polypeptide having at least 99% ~~nucleic acid~~ sequence identity to:

- ~~(a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 387 shown in Figure 278 (SEQ ID NO: 387);~~
 - ~~(b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 387 shown in Figure 278 (SEQ ID NO: 387), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~
 - (c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 387 shown in Figure 278 (SEQ ID NO: 387);
 - ~~(d) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 278 (SEQ ID NO: 387), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~
 - ~~(e) the nucleic acid sequence shown in Figure 277 (SEQ ID NO: 386);~~
 - ~~(f)(d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 386 shown in Figure 277 (SEQ ID NO: 386); or~~
 - ~~(g)(e) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203132;~~
- wherein said polypeptide stimulates cardiac hypertrophy.

124. (Currently amended) An isolated nucleic acid comprising:

- (a) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 387 shown in Figure 278 (SEQ ID NO: 387);
- (b) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 387 shown in Figure 278 (SEQ ID NO: 387), lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 387 shown in Figure 278 (SEQ ID NO: 387);
- (d) ~~a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide shown in Figure 278 (SEQ ID NO: 387), lacking its associated signal peptide;~~
- (e)(d) the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 386 shown in Figure 277 (SEQ ID NO: 386);
- (f)(e) the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 386 shown in Figure 277 (SEQ ID NO: 386); or
- (g)(f) the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203132.

125. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 387 shown in Figure 278 (SEQ ID NO: 387).

126. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 387 shown in Figure 278 (SEQ ID NO: 387), lacking its associated signal peptide.

127. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 387 shown in Figure 278 (SEQ ID NO: 387).

128. Canceled.

129. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 386 shown in Figure 277 (SEQ ID NO: 386).

130. (Currently amended) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 386 ~~shown in Figure 277~~ ~~(SEQ ID NO: 386)~~.
131. (Previously presented) The isolated nucleic acid of Claim 124 comprising the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203132.
- 132-134. (Canceled)
135. (Currently amended) A vector comprising the nucleic acid of Claim 119 or 139.
136. (Previously presented) The vector of Claim 135, wherein said nucleic acid is operably linked to control sequences recognized by a host cell transformed with the vector.
137. (Currently amended) A An isolated host cell comprising the vector of Claim 135.
138. (Previously presented) The host cell of Claim 137, wherein said cell is a CHO cell, an *E. coli* or a yeast cell.
139. (New) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide having at least 80% sequence identity to:
- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 387;
 - (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 387, lacking its associated signal peptide;
 - (c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 387;
 - (d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 386; or

- (e) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203132;
wherein said encoded polypeptide induces chondrocyte redifferentiation.

140. (New) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide according to Claim 139 having at least 85% sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 387;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 387, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 387;
- (d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 386; or
- (e) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203132;
wherein said encoded polypeptide induces chondrocyte redifferentiation.

141. (New) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide according to Claim 139 having at least 90% sequence identity to:

- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 387;
- (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 387, lacking its associated signal peptide;
- (c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 387;
- (d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 386; or
- (e) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203132;
wherein said encoded polypeptide induces chondrocyte redifferentiation.

142. (New) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide according to Claim 139 having at least 95% sequence identity to:
- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 387;
 - (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 387, lacking its associated signal peptide;
 - (c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 387;
 - (d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 386; or
 - (e) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203132;
- wherein said encoded polypeptide induces chondrocyte redifferentiation.
143. (New) An isolated nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide according to Claim 139 having at least 99% sequence identity to:
- (a) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 387;
 - (b) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 387, lacking its associated signal peptide;
 - (c) a nucleic acid sequence encoding the extracellular domain of the polypeptide of SEQ ID NO: 387;
 - (d) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the nucleic acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 386; or
 - (e) the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the full-length coding sequence of the cDNA deposited under ATCC accession number 203132;
- wherein said encoded polypeptide induces chondrocyte redifferentiation.